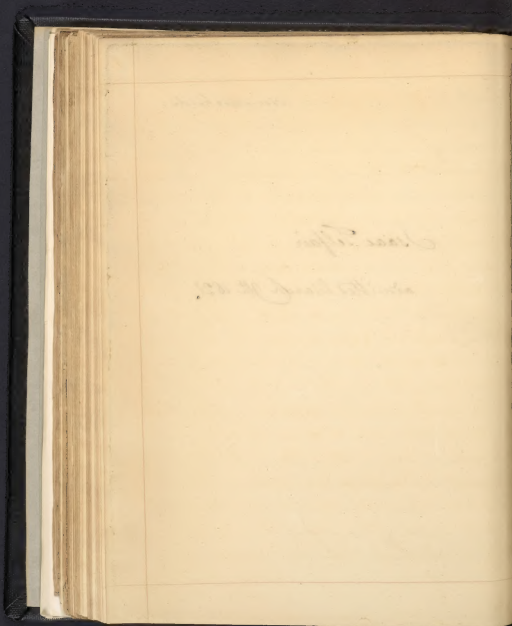


No. 5 or 6.

Isaac Telfair

admitted March 9th 1821.



Hæmorrhoids

or Piles

Piles are tumours, situated about the lower part of the Rectum. When within the verge of the anus, they are called *Internal*, and when external to it, the *External Piles*. Hæmorrhoids are sometimes attended with a discharge of blood, and are then called *Bloody* or *Spon Piles*; when this discharge does not take place they are called *Cancer*, or *Blind Piles*.

These tumours are supposed to consist of enlarged or varicose Hæmorrhoidal veins, enveloped either by the lining membrane of the Rectum, or (when external,) by the common integuments. When we compress them between our thumb and finger, a pulsation is suddenly felt, by the latter member; affording sufficient evidence, that Arteries also enter into the composition of these tumours. It has been observed that the *Blind Piles* are so soft and thin as evidently to be composed of a formed by a varicose or distended state of the Hæmorrhoidal veins, yet he has reason to believe, that a thickening of the Intestine, or folds of the membrane which lines the Intestine --
Rectum.

As more frequently the escape of these Tumours, than a
 varicose, or enlarged state of the blood vessels of the
 part. Mr Earl in his lecture on this subject says that
 in their first protrusion, they contain nothing but co-
 agulated blood, this stagnating in the hemorrhoidal sinus,
 or possibly under the internal coat of the rectum, may
 in time become organized, this again, map, being
 irritated by frequent profuse, becomes in time a
 firm and fleshy substance.

In the various stages of this affection, or
 under its different circumstances, these tumours may
 assume a nature resembling either of the descriptions
 I have written - The Internal Piles when situated
 high up in the rectum, project into it in the form
 of berries, are generally two or three in num-
 ber, and are soft, and loose in their texture. But
 being irritated by the parts adjacent, and from
 other causes they swell, inflame, and in this state
 give great pain; at this period they frequently
 burst and discharge blood copiously, thus giving
 ease

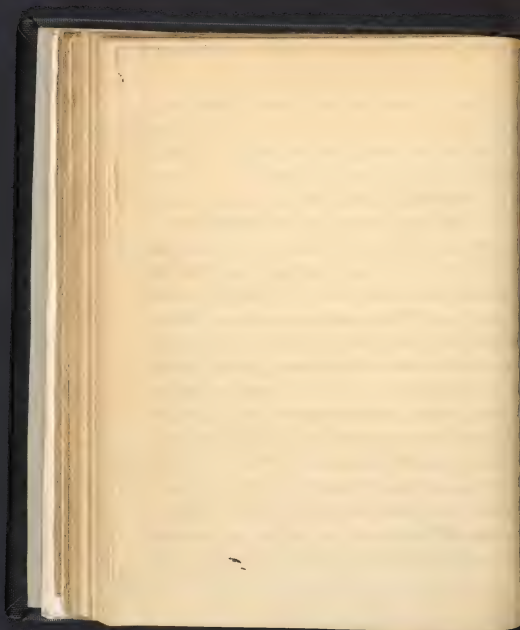
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to the sufferer, but sometimes the discharge is so profuse as to endanger life, which is said to have been the cause of the death of the celebrated philosopher Epicurus. Neither is this discharge at ways preceded by pain, and other premonitory symptoms, but is often the first evidence of the existence of Hemorrhoids. This discharge in some instances, relieves affections of the head, chest, and is generally good for the general health, hence it ought not to be checked unless, delicacy, and other circumstances require that it should be done. The internal piles upon long standing (when they do not relieve themselves by a discharge) completely change their nature, assuming pretty much the appearance described by Mr. Leod. Their contents coagulate their coats increase in thickness, and they resemble, pendulous excrescent tumours in other parts of the body, then increasing in size are expelled by the action of the gut and efforts at stool beyond the sphincter ani muscle. On their first protrusion

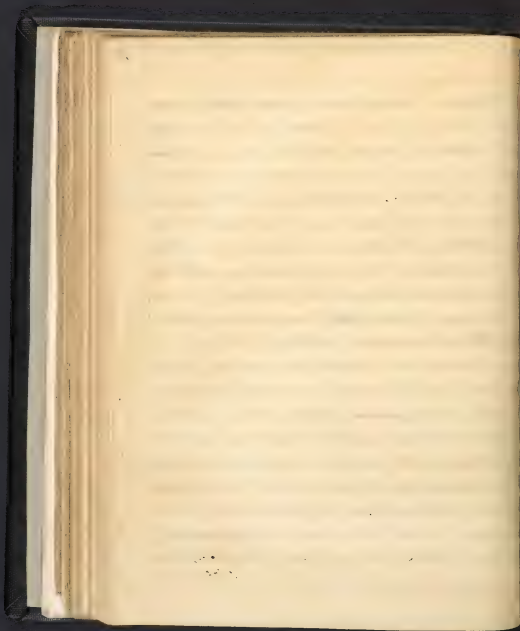
they may be replaced, but as they increase in size this becomes more difficult, and they finally remain permanently external, forming the External Piles.

The External Piles, are thus most frequent by the consequence of the internal. On their first protrusion, they may resemble a reddened ring surrounding the anus, or they may be in the form of separate distinct lobes, one of which is generally observed to be more elevated, inflamed, harder, and more painful than the rest. Great pain is experienced on sitting down, & in going to stool, this symptom may be relieved when the parts can be replaced within the sphincter ani muscle; but the only permanent relief brought by nature is a discharge of blood which sometimes takes place, When this does not occur, the tumours are irritated by pruritus, assume a foul, malignant appearance, and discharge a bloody sanies, they increase so considerably in size, as in some instances to

press upon the neck of the bladder, producing
much irritation and even pain in voiding urine.
They may be attended with considerable inflam-
mation, which proceeding to suppuration, may
lay the foundation of Stricture in Men. They are
sometimes so strangulated by the action of the
sphincter and muscle as to prevent the circula-
tion in them. They multiply, though, and thus offer
a natural cure analogous to an operation de-
monstrated by Mr. Pott (the Great Surgeon) but cer-
tainly much more tedious, painful, and danger-
ous. Death seldom or never occurs from this affec-
tion but it produces a train of most distressing
symptoms, which are so conspicuous as to catch the
notice of the friendly physician as he walks along
the street, in this state, life is a burden to the pa-
tient, being burdened with pursuing its necessary
excercises and from blending with them pleasant
recreation. His spirits are flying away, and he would
probably sink into the grave, but for the handy hands
of the Surgeon -



The Piles have a resemblance to several other external
 cancers about these parts, such as enlargements
 of the sebaceous glands about the anus, to years
 cancers arising from venereal or cancerous disposi-
 tions in the habit, or to protrusions of the rectum.
 But they may with great ease be distinguished from
 these affections. The disease to which it bears the
 most resemblance is Cancer of the rectum. Both are
 hard, swollen, and painful, the discharge is similar,
 and the same order, ~~partial~~, intermittence, without
 both, But in a cancerous protrusion, the base is
 broader, harder, more incompressible, and has its ori-
 gin higher up the rectum, commonly occupying
 the whole circumference of the intestine, which
 so narrows the passage, that the feces are expelled
 with difficulty. In cancerous affections of the rectum
 the parts sometimes feel soft, like rotten substances
 the pain of cancerous, or malignant fungi, is un-
 remitting, whether they remain external, or are
 returned within the sphincter ani. The patient



more at ease, but complains of shooting pains
in the lumbar region. In little cases anæsthetic
injections give relief, but less in cancerous—

These remarks may serve to distinguish the
Piles, from other growths about the rectum

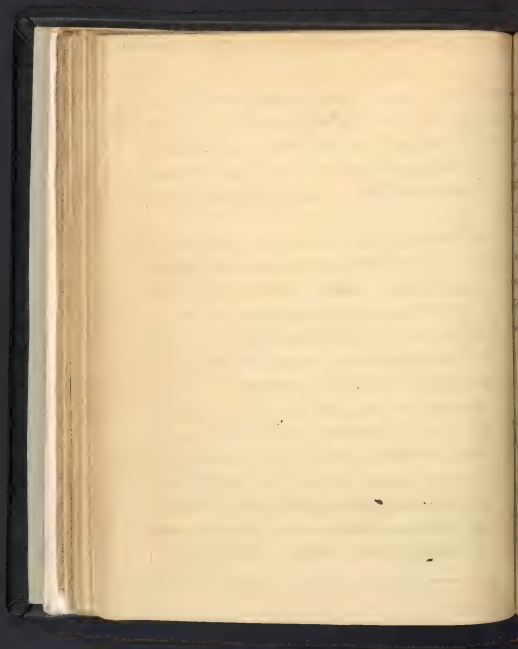
Concerning the causes of Hemorrhoids—

When we reflect on the situation, structure, and va-
rious communications of the parts affected, we may rea-
dily conceive of the various and numerous causes
which may induce Piles, anything which tends
to impede the circulation in the part, or to debili-
tate the flow of blood to dropicously may ^{cause} induce
them. Hence they are often connected with con-
stipated state of the bowels, Disease of the liver,
Disorder of the urinary system. Riding on Horseback is said to
induce them, but I know several instances in which
the patient has been relieved by this kind of exer-
cise. But independent of all these causes, Piles
are sometimes induced by primary local irrita-
tion, this irritation causes the lax internal coat
of the



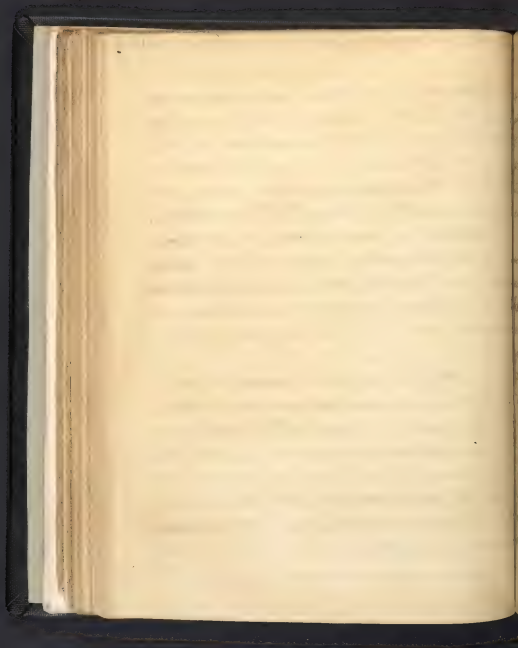
of the gut to swell, while the muscular fibres contracting push the swelling down as it would matter in the gut, at the same time they constrict the haemorrhoidal veins, the lower cellular canal is filled with blood, and thus occasion the Piles.

The treatment of this disease, must be regulated by a view of its causation. If they have proceeded from Laxity, a relaxed state of the Spleen, or if it be caused by pregnancy, we may not expect a cure until these causes are removed. When the Piles proceed from indigestion, an indolent state of the bowels, which is then most frequent cause) Leucorrhoea are indicated, and in selecting from this class of remedies, we should be particularly careful to choose those only which act on the alimentary canal, without having their action determined in any great degree, to the rectum. ⁴⁴ Those also who are liable to these affections should carefully abstain from Astringent purgatives.



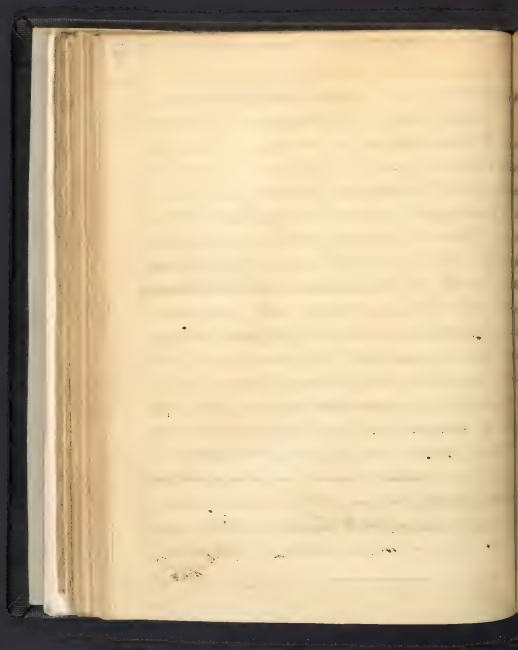
a combination of Sulphur and cream of Tartar, is the Laxative more frequently recommended, Should the Piles proceed from or be attended with a relaxed or debilitated state of the bowels, the internal use of Mild's purge will be found useful, by setting ^{strength} and tone to them. This Asthenia is said by Some to not specially call on the Hemorrhoidal vessels, as Balsam Capivi is that of the mæthra. Remedies of this character together with some astringent applications, will in general remove the mildest forms of this disease —

But should they be much attended with much pain, and inflammation these Symptoms must be assuaged. The inflammation should more particularly command our attention, and endeavours to prevent its terminating in suppuration, this from the structure of the Parts being very apt to produce fistula in ano — Leeches should be applied, also pedegels wet with a solution of



of Lead or Zinc - Various Emollient ointments are also useful such as the Styracineum, the Oleum 94. The water applied by means of a lint or ~~or~~ semicarpium is said by D'Hue to be useful by taking off the action of the tumified vessels and it has occasionally yielded a discharge from them.

— When the Inflammation has been subdued, we may then recur to the use of astringent remedies, of these the gall ointment is the most common, When the Piles are attended with a prolapsus and they should be washed with some astringent solution, such as the decoction of oak bark then returned to their natural situation and retained there by a graduated compress. When the Piles are strangulated by the action of the sphincter ani (which is a frequent and troublesome attendant on these Tumours) we should introduce a bougie into the rectum, this instrument eases their disappearance of the Tumours, either by pressure on them, or by over coming the stricture which



opiate binds them alone.

When this disease is attended with profuse debilitating hemorrhages, it is necessary to show astringent injections up the rectum, such as a solution of lead or Zinc. It is also recommended to make pressure, immediately on the ~~inner~~ ^{inner} mouth of the bleeding vessels, by introducing a pig or sheep gut up the rectum, which is to be tied at the upper end, and filled from the lower with some cold fluid, by means of a syringe. But when we reflect, that this body acts as a kind of suppository, exciting the gut to contraction, which is at the same time attended with a relaxation of the sphincter, we may reasonably conclude, that it would not have the desired effect.

But every practitioner can tell how anxious ~~it~~ in some cases all medical treatment is, the last resort is to Surgery. which generally brings relief. The operations performed for the removal of this disease

The first thing I noticed when I stepped
out of the train at the station, it was
a warm, sunny day. The air was
fresh and clean. I had heard that
the weather was good, and it was
just what I needed. I had been
in the city for a long time, and
I was tired of the pollution and
the noise. I was looking for a
place where I could breathe and
hear the birds. I found it in the
park. The trees were green and
the flowers were in bloom. I
sat on a bench and watched the
children play. I felt like I was
in a different world. I was
in a place where I could be
myself. I was in a place where
I could be happy. I was in a
place where I could be free.

one of two kinds. The Snare & Ligature - both are
said to be safe and effectual - but when we reflect
on the great vascularity of the parts to be operated on
I should think there would be great danger of Hemor-
rhage in the first operation - To the second it is objected
that it is attended with great pain and irrita-
tion which in some instances produces the most violent
symptoms. Mr. Home obviates these objections by his mode
of operating - He passes a small almond with a
double ligature, through^{the} base of the tumour, ties -
each portion very firmly and then divides the in-
dividual vessels, this by ~~taking off~~ taking off the tension of the
vessels prevents the pain, irritation and other violent
symptoms so much dreaded, while at the same time it
precludes the possibility of Hemorrhage -

Thus

